FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

17 SEPTEMBER 1986

Iran-Iraq War

The Iranian War Information Headquarters announced Iran's decision to halt retaliatory attacks on Iraq due to the latter's discontinuation of attacks on Iranian civilian and industrial areas 14-15 September, IRNA reported. Nevertheless, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn told the Iraqi people in a speech broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio that Iraq will retaliate with "accuracy, vehemence, and firmness" for missile and artillery attacks by the Iranians and for "their killing of prisoners." However, while noting "your roaring slogans demanding immediate retaliation and revenge," he asked the people to "please leave the timing and method of retaliation to us." Iraq must use its capability rationally and exercise self-restraint and patience, he said, and it must take worldwide public opinion into consideration when making military decisions. He also maintained that the majority of Iranians want an end to the war, adding that Iraqi military policy must therefore promote this tendency and avoid inflaming the situation.

As for military developments, an Iranian military statement cited by IRNA announced that Iranian forces advanced northwest of Mehran early 16 September, capturing a "strategic" height that overlooks the Iraqi towns of Zurbatiyah and Badrah and taking 50 prisoners. Iraqi planes hit another "large maritime target" off the Iranian coast the previous morning, according to a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio.

Israel

Reporting on Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' talks with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, Jerusalem radio said the Americans and Israelis agree on conditions which will make it very difficult for the USSR to join an international conference on the Mideast problem. Under these circumstances, it is doubtful whether the idea which was supposed to lead to a breakthrough in the political process will materialize, the radio added. In remarks broadcast by the radio, Peres acknowledged that his support for an international conference is a "tactical move, both in order to return the ball to the Soviet court and in order to show the Arabs what the real limitations are." As for the results of his meeting with President Ronald Reagan, Peres said his requests in the economic sphere were favorably answered, the radio noted.

Lebanese Terrorism in France

Both the "Committee for Solidarity with Arab and Middle East Political Prisoners" and the "Supporters of Right and Freedom" claimed responsibility for the 15 September bomb attack at the Paris police headquarters, Paris radio reported, noting that the latter group exhorted the former "not to exploit the efforts of others."

Pakistan

Pakistan and the PRC signed an agreement for bilateral cooperation on peaceful uses of nuclear energy, Karachi radio disclosed in a report on the foreign minister's visit to Beijing. The agreement makes clear that this cooperation will be solely for peaceful purposes and is not aimed at producing any explosive device, the radio added, noting the foreign minister's statement that Pakistan "does not want to develop or acquire a nuclear weapon."

Sudan

Two people were killed and 34 were injured when demonstrators clashed with security forces in the Darfur Province town of Nyala 13 September, SUNA reported. The armed forces intervened after a peaceful student protest against "exorbitant" commodity price increases degenerated into riots during which demonstrators stoned the local military governor and set fire to houses and shops.

Libyan Oil Production

Libya will begin producing and exporting oil from offshore fields by the end of 1987, Tripoli radio reported, noting that a large drilling and production platform is being erected in the sea at Al-Buri oilfield, 25 km north west of Tripoli.

Mideast Diplomatic Developments

Turkey — The chief of the Soviet General Staff held talks in Ankara with the defense minister and other Turkish military officials, Ankara radio reported.

Syria — SANA noted that President Hafiz al-Asad received visiting Hungarian President Pal Losonczi.

PDRY — Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the PDRY Supreme Council Presidium, issued decrees providing for the appointment of 12 ambassadors, Aden radio announced.

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Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi planes carried out three raids on jetties and loading facilities at Khark Island 16 September, disrupting Iranian repair work and hitting an oil tanker docking at the island, the Iraqi command announced in a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. A military spokesman cited by INA denied an Iranian claim that four Iraqi planes were shot down over Khark, asserting that all Iraqi aircraft returned safely to base. An Iraqi spokesman also denied Iran's claim to have launched an attack in the central sector near Mehran, asserting that Iran has begun inventing "fictitious battles," according to INA. For Iran's part, IRNA stated that an Iraqi warplane was shot down over the Gulf 17 September while attempting to attack an Iranian frigate.

In another development, KUNA cited a Kuwaiti official announcement that a Kuwaiti oil tanker was attacked by a warship off the northern Saudi port of Ra's al-Khalfji the evening of 16 September. The tanker was hit by two missiles, which caused a fire in one of the rear storage holds.

Assassination of Soviet Diplomat in Pakistan

Pakistani leaders expressed "deep shock" over the assassination of a Soviet military attache in Islamabad, Karachi radio reported, noting that the diplomat was shot dead by a "deranged" person with a history of mental illness. The assassin, who is under arrest, had been trying to obtain a visa to go to the Soviet Union.

Statements on Paris Terrorism

The Libyan People's Bureau in Paris issued a statement condemning the recent terrorist attacks in the French capital and denouncing "tendentious attempts led by circles outside France" to implicate Libya in these actions, JANA reported. In Beirut, the "Committee for Solidarity with Arab and Middle East Political Prisoners" issued a communique threatening further violence including an attack on the wall surrounding the French presidential palace, according to AFP.

Lebanon

U.S. Hostages — The Islamic Jihad group issued a statement urging the American people to act in order to achieve a "happy end" to the plight of U.S. hostages in Lebanon, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. The statement accused President Ronald Reagan of pursuing a "deceitful" policy in which he is concerned for U.S. journalist Nicholas Daniloff but not for the U.S. hostages, AFP noted.

The agency also carried the text of an accompanying letter, purportedly written by hostage David Jacobsen but couch- ed in poor English, which said the hostages are sick and in a bad psychological state.

Birri Criticism of Dialogue — The Christian leaders "only pretended to be seeking agreement" and "wanted to go backward," Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri maintained in a statement reported by Voice of National Resistance radio after the latest dialogue committee meeting in Beirut. Birri said his side had tried to find "conciliatory formulas" but in light of the Christian attitude "we insisted that the dialogue be suspended." Nevertheless, Prime Minister Rashid Karami announced that the committee will meet again 23 September, according to the Voice of Lebanon.

Israel

The Justice Ministry is investigating claims that Arab prisoners in the occupied territories are being tortured, Jerusalem radio disclosed, noting that the allegations were made in an Amnesty International report. Amnesty's charges that Israeli interrogators have supervised torture by the Army of Southern Lebanon (ASL) were strongly denied by Uri Lubrani, the Defense Ministry coordinator on Lebanon, who said the ASL's jail at Al-Khiyyam is the sole responsibility of the ASL and its commander.

Tunisia

Tunis radio reported President Habib Bourguiba's decision to appoint new chiefs for the air force and the military security service.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 180 *17 September 1986*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Young Workers Group Reportedly Merges With PDPA ..... C 1
Keshtmand Addresses Politburo on Nonaligned Summit ..... C 1
Tehran Reports Afghan Rebels Down Enemy Plane ..... C 1
Rebels 'Crushed' in Lowgar, Baghlan Provinces ..... C 2
Kabul Reports Arms Seized in Nangarhar Province ..... C 2

BANGLADESH

Ershad Views 'Overall Situation' With Military Chiefs ..... D 1
AFP Reports Clash Along Indian Border ..... D 1

INDIA

Group Expresses 'Concern' Over Political Situation ..... E 1
Suspected Terrorists in Punjab Seized by Border Force ..... E 1
AFP: Sikh Militants Kill 2 in Punjab ..... E 1

OTHER COUNTRIES

NEPAL

Border Committee Meeting With India Held in Katmandu *[Delhi]* ..... G 1

SRI LANKA

President, Ministers Address Public Meeting in Kandy ..... G 1

IRAN

Khomeyni Receives High-Ranking IRGC Officials ..... I 1
Paris Envoy Views Relations With French Government *[Paris LE MONDE 14-15 Sep]* ..... I 1
Minister of Agriculture Confers with Head of ECO ..... I 2
Departs for New Zealand 17 Sep ..... I 2
Iraqi Muslims Urged To Join Special Convoys ..... I 2
WIH Head Says Regime 'Sets Conditions' for War's End ..... I 2
Volunteer Units Continue To Depart for Battlefronts ..... I 2
Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq ..... I 2
Further Heights Captured ..... I 2
Frigate Downs Iraqi Plane, Takes Pilot ..... I 3
Downed Plane Reportedly Mirage F-1 ..... I 3
Iraqi Navy 'Annihilated' in Gulf ..... I 3
Iraqi Military Convoy Hit 9 Sep ..... I 3
Communique No 2596 ..... I 3

Young Workers Group Reportedly Merges With PDPA

LD170842 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 17 Sep 86

[Text] Kabul, September 16, BAKHTAR: The Vanguard Organisation of Young Workers of Afghanistan (VOYWA) has merged with the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, PDPA, says a joint statement released here today.

The statement says that the PDPA as a party of the working class and all the workers of the country is acting on the basis of the principle of revolutionary scientific theory and is a leading and directive force of the society.

The Vanguard Organisation of Young Workers of Afghanistan (VOYWA), the statement points out, is also a part of the People's Liberation Movement which is loyal to the lofty objectives of the workers and proletarian internationalism.

The statement says that the unification of the PDPA and VOYWA has been announced on the basis of convictions and common ideological, political, and organisational aims and the consolidation of a new type of single revolutionary party in a united country and the ever-faster mobilisation of all masses of the people in the struggle against imperialism headed by U.S. imperialism, Chinese chauvinism, reaction, and the counterrevolution.

On the basis of these common lines, the unification of VOYWA with the PDPA aimed at defending the goals of the April Revolution is fully necessary and law-governed.

Therefore, the VOYWA of Afghanistan on the basis of common principles and organisational affinity with the PDPA is inserted in the protocol dated September 15, 1986.

Both sides, the statement indicates, pledge to continue ever-more firmer and more powerfully their just and revolutionary struggle for ensuring peace, ending bloodshed, total elimination of counter-revolution and the realisation of the program of action and decisions of the 19th Plenum of PDPA CC as per the norms of the Constitution of the PDPA as a single unit under the leadership of the PDPA CC and its Politburo.

Earlier, the Working People's Revolutionary Association of Afghanistan (WPRAA), a left-wing democratic organisation, was also merged with the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, PDPA, under a joint statement released in July this year.

These developments have taken place on the basis of the decision of the 19th Plenum of the PDPA CC aimed at uniting all the national and democratic forces.

Keshtmand Addresses Politburo on Nonaligned Summit

LD162024 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 16 Sep 86

[Excerpts] A session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo was held in the Central Committee headquarters.

The Politburo heard a report from Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, on the participation of the DRA delegation in the Eighth Conference of the Heads of State or Government of the Nonaligned Movement which was held in Harere, the capital of Zimbabwe.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo approved the report of Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand.

At the Politburo it was pointed out that the active participation of the DRA delegation in the Harare conference and meetings and contacts of Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand at this conference with the heads of state or government of a number of friendly countries further enhanced the international prestige of the DRA and increased further the awareness of the international public opinion concerning the truth about democratic Afghanistan.

It was emphasized at the Politburo that the speech of Comrade Keshtmand which was delivered at the conference on behalf of the DRA had a specific and positive influence on the view of the various countries' delegates concerning the DRA.

At this session it was pointed out that despite the efforts of the DRA's enemies and pressures by U.S. imperialism, the prestige of the DRA in the Nonalignment Movement is being enhanced. [passage omitted]

The Politburo regarded as positive the results of the Harare conference in securing international peace, disarmament, a reduction in the arms race, and support for the people who are fighting for their freedom and independence as well as freedom from the domination of the imperialist neocolonialism in various fields, in particular in the economic field.

The Politburo also discussed a number of other domestic and international issues and adopted decisions in these respects.

Tehran Reports Afghan Rebels Down Enemy Plane

LD161945 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Sep 86

[Text] Air defense fire of the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries has downed a fighter plane of the occupying forces. According to an IRNA dispatch from Islamabad, in the course of an operation launched by the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries against the joint occupying and governmental forces in the region of Tarin Kowt, in Oruzgan Province, on 1 September a tank and a personnel carrier of the joint forces were destroyed and 12 of their troops were either killed or wounded.

According to the report, the warplanes of the occupiers began bombing the region, which resulted in the downing of the fighter plane of the joint forces.

Rebels 'Crushed' in Lowgar, Baghlan Provinces
LD170833 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 17 Sep 86

[Text] Kabul, September 16, BAKHTAR — As a result of successful operations carried out by the Armed Forces of the DRA in Lowgar and Baghlan Provinces, east and north of the country, a number of counter-revolutionary bandits were crushed.

A large quantity of assorted weapons and ammunition including anti-tank and anti-personnel mines, 21 rocket launchers, two heavy machine guns and one ground-to-air missile were confiscated by the Armed Forces of the DRA.

Kabul Reports Arms Seized in Nangarhar Province
LD161912 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 16 Sep 86

[Text] BAKHTAR reports that, as a result of a successful operation by the Armed Forces, a number of counterrevolutionary elements who were disrupting the peaceful life of the local people in Sorkh Rud District, Nangarhar Province, were punished for their foul deeds.

During the operation a missile launcher unit, one mortar along with 380 bombs, 54 boxes of ammunition for DShK's; 66 antivehicle mines, 3 boxes of antipersonnel mines and 35 boxes of ammunition for assorted weapons were seized.

Ershad Views 'Overall Situation' With Military Chiefs

BK161719 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 16 Sep 86

[Text] President and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, Hussain Mohammad Ershad, had a high-level meeting with three service chiefs and senior officers of the Armed Forces in Dhaka this evening.

The meeting discussed overall situation in the country. Chief of army staff, Lieutenant General M. Attiqur Rahman; chief of naval staff, Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmed; chief of air staff, Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud; all area commanders of the army and PSL's of the three services attended the meeting.

AFP Reports Clash Along Indian Border

BK170512 Hong Kong AFP in English 0509 GMT 17 Sep 86

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 17 (AFP) — A Bangladesh border police outpost in southeastern Hagrachari District came under heavy fire Tuesday and press reports quoting local officials said Shanti Bahini insurgents launched the attack.

They were allegedly backed by Indian border security forces, the press reports said.

The *New Nation* said in a report from Chittagong that forces in the post, which borders India's Tripura State, returned the fire which continued for half an hour. The newspaper gave no information on casualties.

Group Expresses 'Concern' Over Political Situation

BK161257 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 16 Sep 86

[Text] A seven-member group led by Mr Pranab Mukherji today called on the president, Giani Zail Singh, in New Delhi and submitted a memorandum to him expressing concern over the political and economic situation in the country. Criticizing the Mizo accord, the memorandum said it would not only encourage separatist forces. They said the outcome of Punjab and Assam accords is disappointing. The group which calls itself the All India Congress-I Workers Convention accused the government of diluting the country's economic policy by liberalizing imports and encouraging privatization. The signatories to the memorandum included Mr R. Gunddu Rao, Mr Prakash Mehrotra, Mr Shisir Kumar Bose, Mr S.S. Mahaptara, Mr S.M. Khan, and Mr Ashoke Bhattacharya.

Suspected Terrorists in Punjab Seized by Border Force

BK170310 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 17 Sep 86

[Text] In Punjab, four more suspected terrorists have been arrested by the Border Security Force [BSF]. The arrested persons include a priest, Gurdayal Singh, from (Dyalgarh) near Batala who had escaped after making an abortive attempt to raid a BSF post a few days ago. According to official information reaching BSF headquarters, Preetam Singh, an alleged harborer of terrorists, was apprehended from a village in Ludhiana District. In a house-to-house search BSF men also picked up two other suspected terrorists. A large quantity of ammunition with foreign markings was seized.

In a separate raid near the Indo-Pakistan border in Rajasthan, a BSF patrol apprehended a Pakistani national while he was attempting to cross the border with 15 bags of heroin. The heroin is worth about 30 lakh rupees. One rifle and some light cartridges have also been seized from the intruder.

AFP: Sikh Militants Kill 2 in Punjab

NC162140 Paris AFP in English 2134 GMT 16 Sep 86

[Text] New Delhi, Sept 16 (AFP) — Sikh militants gunned down a Hindu leader and a Sikh in scattered violence in the Punjab Tuesday as security forces arrested seven people, including a woman, in the strife-torn north Indian state, the *Press Trust of India* (PTI) news agency said.

PTI said two Sikh militants riding a scooter shot dead Vijay Mohan, a leader of the Hindu Shiv Sena Organisation, at his shop at Phillaur, some 300 kilometres (185 miles) north-west of here.

Hindu shopkeepers in the town immediately downed shutters and called for a day-long protest strike for Wednesday.

PTI said three Sikh militants also killed a Nihang, a term describing members of a tiny Sikh sect whose members generally carry swords, near Budhsinghwala village in the border district of Faridkot. The police did not give the victim's name.

The killings occured even as security forces battled a group of Sikh militants and arrested Veer Kaur, 26 in Amritsar District after charging her with being a spy for militants campaigning for a Sikh homeland christened Khalistan.

PTI quoted Amritsar's Police Chief H.S. Kahlon as saying that Avtar Singh Brahma, who carried a reward of 50,000 rupees (4,000 dollars) on his head, and two Sikh militants fled after a gunbattle with security forces. This was the third time Brahma escaped being caught, he added.

Mr Kahlon said Ms Kaur, who was arrested in an Amritsar hotel along with two men, admitted having passed on information about the movement of security forces in the state to Sikh militants based in neighbouring Pakistan.

The Indian Government has repeatedly accused Islamabad of backing Sikh militants in the Punjab, but Pakistan has denied the charge.

PTI added that the para-military Border Security Force rounded up four suspected Sikh militants after house-to-house searches in Gurdaspur District and seized more than 150 rounds of ammunition from them.

Tuesday's killings came after two days of relative peace in the Punjab.

NEPAL

Border Committee Meeting With India Held in Katmandu

BK170328 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 17 Sep 86

[Text] The Indo-Nepal Joint Technical Committee on Boundary meeting began in Katmandu yesterday. The 5-day meeting will review the maintenance of boundary pillars and restoration of missing pillars, if any.

Our Katmandu correspondent says that the officials of the two countries meet periodically to discuss the maintenance work done by the field officers at the border and remove any encroachment on the specified boundary.

SRI LANKA

President, Ministers Address Public Meeting in Kandy

BK161145 Colombo International Service in English
1045 GMT 16 Sep 86

[Text] President J.R. Jayewardene has called upon the people to be with him if they think that he is going ahead and solving the problems faced by them and to oppose him if they consider him to be backing away in the face of problems. Addressing a public meeting in Kandy last evening, the president stressed that he has always been prepared to discharge the responsibility vested in him by the people. The meeting was called to explain the proposed provincial council system.

Mr Jayewardene recalled that the country faced various conspiracies at different periods in its history and such conspiracies could not be considered as has been during the current time. Highly placed persons had been involved in the plots, and the assassination of Prime Minister Bandaranaike and the 1962 coup attempt were examples of this. The president said that he did not place his confidence in coups but in the people and added that he had never been involved in any conspiracy. Even Mrs Bandaranaike had conceded this fact. Mr Jayewardene also explained in detail the functioning of the Constitution and the Executive in the country.

Addressing those present, Prime Minister R. Premadasa said that he appealed to the Indian prime minister not to provide a haven to the terrorists as the government had proposed a just solution to resolve the present crisis. He said that the minority communities suffered an injustice under the 1972 Constitution which led to the birth of terrorism. The present Constitution has removed this injustice. The prime minister observed that the government did not make efforts to stockpile arms. On the contrary, it wanted to develop the country and good results have been obtained through the development efforts. Several Cabinet ministers also spoke outlining the benefits that would accrue to the people through decentralization of the administration.

Khomeyni Receives High-Ranking IRGC Officials

LD171139 Tehran IRNA in English 1130 GMT 17 Sep 86

[Text] Tehran, Sept 17, IRNA — The leader of the Islamic Revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Imam Khomeyni, received high-ranking officials of the Islamic Revolution's Guard Corps (IRGC), here Wednesday.

During the meeting the officials reported to Imam Khomeyni on the activities of their units and the imam issued necessary guidelines in return.

The officials were IRGC Commander Mohsen Reza'i, IRGC Minister Mohsen Rafiqdust, commander of the Basij volunteer forces, commanders of IRGC army, air, and naval forces and their deputies.

Paris Envoy Views Relations With French Government

PM161137 Paris LE MONDE in French 14-15 Sep 86 pp 1,2

[Interview with Gholamreza Haddadi, Iranian charge d'affaires in Paris, by Alain Frachon — date and place not given]

[Text] The financial dispute between France and Iran could be settled at least partly in the "near future," possibly "in several weeks," according to the Iranian charge d'affaires in Paris. "I am optimistic," Gholamreza Haddadi told us, and he is clearly very anxious to report "progress" at a time when some people are suggesting that the financial negotiations between the two countries are marking time.

"I must say that the French government has shown a degree of goodwill on this problem" of the repayment of the 1 billion dollar loan which Iran made to the Atomic Energy Commission in 1974, Mr Haddadi continued.

According to the diplomat "progress was made this summer" during the latest talks which the delegation of French negotiators had in Tehran. Of course Mr Haddadi admits that no new meeting between the two delegations is planned, but "this is certainly not a bad sign," he said, hinting that the negotiations have reached an advanced stage.

In this connection, Mr Haddadi said that Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond "recently sent a written message" to Mr Velayati, his Iranian counterpart, "and I can tell you," the charge d'affaires continued, "that I will very soon pass on an important reply from Mr Velayati," relating to the loan in particular. Mr Haddadi does not know the "details" of this reply, just the broad outlines: However, he said, he is able to say he is "delighted" with the developments in the negotiations and "optimistic about the future of Franco-Iranian relations."

As far as Tehran is concerned, the normalization of these relations requires the fulfillment of three conditions: the departure from France of the Iranian Mojahedin-e Khalq opposition movement (this has already been done and this organization's main leaders moved to Bagdhdad in June); the repayment of the 1 billion dollar loan (this is about to be settled, according to Mr Haddadi; and, finally, an end to French support for Iraq, which has been at war with Iran for almost 7 years.

Are we to conclude from this that there can be no "normalization" with Paris until France modifies its relations with Iraq? The charge d'affaires does not seem to think so. Of course, he said, "our preconditions cannot be separated," but he added immediately that the settlement of the financial dispute should pave the way for normalization to start. This will be an important stage and "the trend can be developed," according to Mr Haddadi who seems to give priority to the settlement of the financial dispute.

As far as the French government is concerned, the normalization of relations with Iran ought to lead Tehran to use its influence with the (pro-Iranian) Lebanese Shi'ite extremists who are holding French nationals hostage in Beirut. On this subject Mr Haddadi was categorical and reaffirmed Tehran's position. "Franco-Iranian relations," he said, "are entirely unconnected with what is happening in Lebanon," be it the hostage affair or the struggle which some pro-Iranian Shi'ite groups are waging against the UN Interim Force in Lebanon in southern Lebanon.

He said that events in Lebanon are certainly not "taken into consideration" in the Franco-Iranian talks. The charge d'affaires did not deny that "the Islamic Republic of Iran has a major influence in Lebanon" or that it has "very close relations with that country's clerics and Muslims"; however this "does not allow us to conclude that everything which happens (in Lebanon — *Le Monde* editor's note) is controlled by the Islamic Republic...."

Mr Haddadi also said that he did not understand why Mr Raimond stated a few days ago that he would not make an official visit to Tehran until the hostages are released. "This visit," the diplomat explained, "is entirely France's decision; Mr Raimond could make it in the present conditions...because it is desirable for officials to meet." He also said he is convinced that "as a result of the positive actions observed for several months," Franco-Iranian relations will in future find "their true dimension in the interests of the two sides."

The charge d'affaires also expressed surprise that the use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi forces is not sparking off more protests from the international community and especially from France. It is because Iraq is using this type of weapon in violation of international agreements, he said, that Iran was forced to fire a missile at Baghdad on Friday.

There is only one solution which will end the conflict and "that is the departure of Saddam Husayn," (the Iraqi president). "Our position on the front is now stronger than ever; our forces are ready for a decisive offensive," the diplomat stressed while expressing the hope that "a coup d'etat will overthrow Saddam Husayn" before Iran needs to launch this offensive.

Finally, the charge d'affaires was anxious to say on the subject of terrorism: "It is an activity which must be condemned outright whatever form it takes and wherever it is perpetrated; we have been the victims of terrorism and we certainly do not approve of the massacre of innocent people."

Minister of Agriculture Confers with Head of ECO
LD161656 Tehran IRNA in English 1547 GMT 16 Sep 86

[Text] Tehran, Sept 16, IRNA — Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) of Iran, Turkey, and Pakistan Bihjat Turman met and conferred Tuesday with Iranian Minister of Agriculture 'Abbas 'Ali Zali.

At the meeting, Zali said that relations and cooperation in economic and technical fields should be expanded further among the three Muslim and neighbouring countries; he added, that the three countries can share their agricultural as well as other experiences with each other.

The ECO secretary general welcomed the suggestion and noted that ECO organization will shortly become a member of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Departs for New Zealand 17 Sep
LD170708 Tehran IRNA in English 0635 GMT 17 Sep 86

[Text] Tehran, Sept 17 IRNA — The Iranian minister of agriculture, 'Abbas 'Ali Zali, heading a delegation left Tehran for a tour of New Zealand and Australia Wednesday morning. In Wellington, New Zealand, Zali is scheduled to attend the first session of the Iran-New Zealand Joint Economic Commission. He will also inspect the agricultural projects in both the countries.

Speaking to IRNA prior to his departure, Zali said that the first session of the Joint Economic Commission was being held following expansion of economic relations. Officials from the Iranian Ministries of Agriculture, Commerce, Oil, and Industries as well as Majlis deputies are members of the commission.

The joint commission meets in capitals of each country every alternate year, he added.

Iraqi Muslims Urged To Join Special Convoys
LD162041 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Sep 86

[Text] The central headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI), issued a joint statement. It announces that simultaneously with epic Muharram days and following the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps announcement to form Muharram convoys for the battlefronts, the Iraqi Muslim Mojahedins living in Islamic Iran, along side other zealous combatants of the army of monotheism, will participate in the Muharram convoys and determine the fate of the war and the collapse of Baghdad's 'Aflaqite regime.

All the Iraqi Muslim Mojahedins, including those in training, the second-time dispatch warriors, and special logistic forces, who have not yet managed to register their names, are hereby invited to enroll by Saturday, 20 September at the latest, by contacting SAIRI mobilization centers in various regional bases of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. Arrangements will then be made to dispatch them in the special Muharram convoys and epic-makers of 'Ashura.

WIH Head Says Regime 'Sets Conditions' for War's End
LD161523 Tehran IRNA in English 1458 GMT 16 Sep 86

[Excerpt] Tehran, Sept 16, IRNA — "Saddam Husayn is certain to be defeated and it is the Islamic Republic of Iran which determines the fate of the shaky Iraqi regime", said the head of the War Information Headquarters (WIH) Dr Kamal Kharrazi, here Tuesday.

Speaking at a press conference on the occasion of the 'War Week' (22-28 September), Dr Kharrazi said that at the outset of the war the Iraqi regime had vowed to overthrow the Islamic Republic and "liberate" Khuzestan Province of Iran. He said the Iraqi regime intended to impose its own terms for a truce with Iran in the wake of its expected occupation of Persian Gulf islands and parts of the Iranian territory. Dr Kharrazi said that in contrast today it is Iran that sets the conditions for an end of the war. "We believe we should topple the Iraqi regime in order to uproot aggression in the region", he said.

Contrary to the shaky regime of Iraq which relies on the big powers and regional reactionaries, Iran is a great, independent, and stable power in the region and prestigious in the international scenes, Kharrazi said. "Our war fronts are manned by Muslim and motivated people who help enhance the spirit of resistance among the masses and uphold their morale," the WIH head said. [passage omitted]

Volunteer Units Continue To Depart for Battlefronts
NC170607 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 17 Sep 86

[Text] As part of the continual departure of the people's forces to the battlefronts of the war with the Zionist enemy, one combat battalion from West Azarbayjan Province and another from the Khomeyn District's mobilization forces, known by the name of the 'Ashura epic-makers, left for the operational zones yesterday. According to Central News Unit reports, special 'Ashura convoys composed of combat forces from the cities of Zanjan, Takestan, Abhar, and Qeydar in Zanjan Province and the 'Ashura epic-makers from Mahabad also left for the warfronts of our Islamic country yesterday amid a warm send-off by local residents. It should also be noted that hundreds of trained mobilization forces departed for the battlefronts from Naqadeh and (Kavar-e Fars) yesterday.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Further Heights Captured
LD171231 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Sep 86

[Excerpt] A Central News Unit correspondent from Ilam has sent a report on the continuation of the completion of Operation

Karbala-1, by ground forces combatants in the Mehran sector, which you will now hear:

[Begin recording] The mighty ground forces combatants, in addition to capturing the strategic 270 height in (?Namakzan) and destroying the 118th Brigade of Iraq's 35th Division, captured heights Nos 197,193,157,230,295, and 307 from the pagan Ba'thists.

According to a Central News Unit correspondent in Ilam, using RPG-7's, grenades, machine guns, and other light weapons, the forces of monotheism destroyed the personnel bunkers and weapons' emplacements of the Saddamite mercenaries. During the successful operation, the combatants of Islam destroyed 20 trenches and fox holes, four machine gun emplacements, and a loader of the pagan Ba'thists. [passage ommitted][end recording]

Frigate Downs Iraqi Plane, Takes Pilot
LD171141 Tehran IRNA in English 1135 GMT 17 Sep 86

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 17, IRNA — An Iraqi warplane was shot down by anti-aircraft fire of a frigate of the Iranian naval forces over the Persian Gulf at 09:50 hours (06:20 hours GMT) Wednesday, reported the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces here.

The report said that the pilot of the plane was captured by Iranian naval personnel shortly after the plane was downed and sank in the Persian Gulf waters.

The Iraqi warplane was attempting to raid the frigate, the report added.

Downed Plane Reportedly Mirage F-1
LD171549 Tehran IRNA in English 1543 GMT 17 Sep 86

[Text] Tehran, Sept 17, IRNA — An informed Iranian naval source told IRNA that the Iraqi warplane shot down by antiaircraft fire of a frigate of the Iranian naval forces was a Mirage F-1.

The Iraqi Mirage was shot down over northern area of the Persian Gulf at 09:50 hours local time (06:20 GMT) Wednesday.

Iraqi Navy 'Annihilated' in Gulf
LD171551 Tehran IRNA in English 1547 GMT 17 Sep 86

[Text] Tehran, Sept 17, IRNA — Iranian Navy Commander Captain Mohammad-Husayn Malekzadegan said here Wednesday that Iraq's Navy has been annihilated in the Persian Gulf although some small vessels, probably Yugoslav-built, are operating in Umm Qasr port but are unable to go out through Khur Abdullah canal.

Captain Malekzadegan said that Iran's Navy intercepted and inspected forty five cargo ships and oil tankers sailing in the Strait of Hormuz over the past few days.

The navy commander made the remarks in a telephone conversation with the Persian daily *Ettela'at* here.

Malekzadegan said that four Panamanian ships suspected of carrying goods for Iraq were intercepted and escorted to a southern Iranian port for thorough inspection on MonDay and Tuesday.

Iraqi Military Convoy Hit 9 Sep
LD161640 Tehran IRNA in English 1628 GMT 16 Sep 86

[Text] Bakhtaran, Sept 16, IRNA — Seventy Iraqi soldiers were killed and 30 vehicles destroyed when Iranian artillery fire hit the enemy military convoy on 9 September.

The 100 vehicle convoy was leaving Sayyid Sadiq township for Halabjah when it came under Iranian fire.

Communique No 2596
LD161632 Tehran IRNA in English 1604 GMT 16 Sep 86

[Text] Tehran, Sept 16, IRNA — Four Iraqi warplanes were shot down by Iranian anti-aircraft fire over Khark Island, Persian Gulf, Tuesday, said a military communique released by the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces here.

Joint Staff Communique Number 2596 said that Iran's Navy intercepted and inspected 13 cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Monday and allowed 12 of them to continue voyage and escorted one to a southern Iranian port for thorough inspection.

The communique furthermore said that another cargo ship suspected of carrying goods for Iraq was intercepted in the Strait of Hormuz and later escorted to the Persian Gulf coasts for thorough inspection by Iran's Navy Tuesday morning.

Several Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and an enemy mine field, 10 gun emplacements, and five vehicles were set ablaze and destroyed in the western and southern fronts as they were shelled by Iranian Gendarmerie forces on Monday, the communique said.

The joint staff communique said that Iranian forces set ablaze an Iraqi military base in Hajj 'Umran, northwestern fronts Monday. They also pounded enemy armoured units in areas overlooking Marivan destroying a number of Iraqi tanks.

In the southern fronts, the communique said, Iranian forces smashed a convoy of Iraqi patrols in Sharhani operational region Monday inflicting substantial casualties and losses on enemy troops.

Some Iraqi tanks were set ablaze and destroyed in Bajaliyeh [name as received] and Nahre Anbar operational theaters, southern fronts, Monday by Iranian artillery fire, the communique said.

The military communique said that a number of Iraqi scouts were killed and three enemy observation-posts destroyed in Bakhtaran and Ilam border fronts Monday when they were hit by Iranian artillery fire.

Iranian patrols in a four-hour clash with Iraqi patrols in Halaleh operational theater Monday inflicted heavy casualties and losses on enemy troops forcing them to flee, according to the communique.

Elsewhere, the communique said that another convoy of Iraqi patrols attempted to infiltrate Iranian positions in Sugar, western fronts Monday incurred casualties and was forced to flee under Iranian artillery fire.